

space a few yards square for over an hour at a time. When at rest, they showed none of the nervous traits of the Yellow-legs, being much more sedate, neither jerking the head nor tilting the tail. In flight they were quite similar to the Yellow-legs, but as soon as alighted, they bunched and frequently the whole flock fed with their bodies nearly touching.

Like the Yellow-legs, the Stilt Sandpipers were seldom seen upon the exposed mud but preferred wading where the water was from one to three inches in depth, so that the entire head and neck frequently disappeared beneath the surface of the water while feeding. The notes of the two birds though similar in form, were wholly unlike in quality, that of the Stilt Sandpiper being mellower and lower in pitch.—ARTHUR A. ALLEN, *Ithaca, N. Y.*

**Unusual plumages of the Ocellated Turkey** (*Agriocharis ocellata*).—Of many females of this turkey that have come under my observation, during three years residence in the southern and central parts of Campeche, Mexico, the plumages of three specimens demand special description. In all three of these birds, the first four of the inner secondaries have their exposed portions of an iridescent green, a subterminal bronzy bar, and the tips of grayish white. The inner secondaries have their exposed parts of a "pepper and salt" pattern, which is lightest on the extreme outer margins and the tips. Unexposed parts of these feathers—that is, the outer halves—are of a dull black, while their main stems are black. Inner halves of all the secondaries dull black at bases, passing to a soiled white on the margins with an inclination toward mottling at the ends.

Primaries clear, sooty black, being blotched with grayish white near bases, especially on the outer vanes.

The remainder of the plumage in these three birds is normal, while the above described departure therefrom, with respect to the wings, is so striking and so conspicuous that it commands the attention of the observer at once and under all conditions.

One of these abnormally plumaged individuals came into my possession alive, but was, unfortunately, killed and eaten by a large hawk a short time afterwards; the remaining two were shot and preserved. Of these, one was shot out of a flock numbering some fifteen or twenty birds on the 25th of September, 1912, it having immediately attracted my attention from the fact that its wing plumage was so different from that of the rest of the flock, all of which wore the normal plumage.

This specimen typifies the rare and unusual coloration described above, it having about completed the assumption of the second plumage, only the outer rectrices of the first plumage not having, as yet, been molted.

My remaining bird was collected on the 9th of November, of the same year, it being associated at the time with another female and two males, all of these last being normally plumaged individuals.

In the wing of this specimen, the first eight primaries of either side present a mottling of grayish white toward their tips. No explanation

has occurred to me for this unusual plumage in *Agriocharis ocellata* other than perhaps it may possibly be due to the prehistoric peoples that at one time densely populated this part of Mexico having domesticated these turkeys, and that some of these aborigines, through artificial selection, produced a variety of the species which, in the long years since those times, has again become mixed with the normal birds in nature, and is now reverting to their plumage.

As a rule, the species assumes and passes through its several plumage states with marked regularity and uniformity; and, as a matter of fact, aside from the three specimens above described and a few instances of partial albinism, no other abnormalities, with respect to this species, have come under my observation.

Apart from such a solution, to my mind it would seem that there is either some cause now operative — or in times past has been operative — which, were it discovered, would explain the necessity for this species to assume a less conspicuous plumage than the strikingly brilliant one which at present characterizes it.— PERCY W. SHUFELDT, *Campeche, Mexico*.

**The Passenger Pigeon at the Cincinnati Zoölogical Gardens still living.**— Many readers of Mr. Wells W. Cooke's very interesting and instructive paper, "Saving the Ducks and Geese" (*The National Geographic Magazine*, Vol. xxiv — Mch. 1913) have read with deep regret the announcement which he makes in reference to the Passenger Pigeon. He writes — "Today this bird is entirely extinct, the last survivor dying in the Zoo at Cincinnati a few days ago." After reading this sad news, I at once wrote Mr. S. A. Stephan, General Manager of the Cincinnati Zoölogical Co., asking for details and was delighted to receive the following reply under date of May 17. "I have your letter of May 16th, and beg to say that our one remaining Passenger Pigeon is still alive and in as good condition as when I wrote you on Oct. 3rd, 1912." — RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

**Nesting of the Barn Owl in Illinois.**— The first authentic set of Barn Owl's eggs for Illinois was taken May 20, 1909, in Champaign County by Guy Day of Sidney. This consisted of nine eggs and was collected in my ten-mile radius.

On April 20, 1913, I collected a second set of six eggs in the same Salt Fork creek bottoms nine miles from Philo. Both Owls were flushed from the cavity of an enormous Sycamore overhanging the creek.— ISAAC E. HESS, *Philo, Ill.*

**An Unusual Malady and Probable Cause of Death in a Toucan (*Ramphastos carinatus*).**— An adult female of this toucan died April 24, 1913, at the establishment of Mr. Edw. S. Schmid of Washington, D. C., who kindly presented me with the specimen the same day. Upon examining its anatomy — an invariable practice of mine with such material before roughing out the skeleton — I found it in fair condition with most